

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2011
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: J. Bauman, L. Dietz, S. Gresh, R. Roesler, and B. Hopping. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb; Finance Director J. Cuff; and V. Paduchak, Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

Schools and offices will be closed on October 10 in observance of Columbus Day

Policy Subcommittee will meet on October 17, 5:30 p.m., Payne School

Special Fall Town Meeting will be held on October 17, 7:30 p.m., Performing Arts Center. School Committee will not meet before

School Committee will meet on October 20, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

Feoffees Working Group will meet on October 24, 7:30 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb publicly thanked the four new members of the technology crew at the High School who connect the School Committee meeting to television viewing.

Mr. Korb introduced Representative Brad Hill whom he had asked to make a short presentation on changes to Chapter 70. Mr. Hill spoke about two bills before the Mass. House of Representatives which have not been published in local newspapers and which are important to the towns of Massachusetts.

After discussion with the Board, all agreed to authorize a letter of support from the School Committee for House Bill 1821 and House Bill 3538 so that no less than 17.5 percent of the Foundation Budget shall be distributed each year to the cities and towns of Massachusetts for education. Mr. Hill deems unfair the current practice that 61 districts, including Ipswich, are under 17% and Ipswich stands to gain \$144,000 if the Bills pass the legislature, to begin in January, 2012. Citizens of Ipswich are invited to contact the Ways and Means Committee, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate. It was suggested that Mr. Korb and others should meet with the Chair of Education Alice Peisch at the State House. Mr. Hill also mentioned the SPED Circuit Breaker law which helps districts like Ipswich with SPED costs. Last fiscal year the amount was cut to 42% because of the stimulus money (now gone) and an amendment has been filed to the supplemental budget to increase the Circuit Breaker.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PARKING FEES UPDATE**

Mr. Cahill, Principal, has collected for 153 passes and there are 35 empty spots. The winter snow removal needs and the spring new licensees might create enforcing problems. Visitor parking is in place and \$7,000 in revenue from parking fees has been placed in a revolving account.

B. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL SAT PREPARATION

Mr. Cahill presented the April/May, 2011 SAT scores comparisons among Ipswich, Massachusetts, and national numbers. Ipswich is the highest ranking in all cases for the last three years. Kaplan offers (paying) courses for ACT and SAT preparation; the High School itself offers one quarter preparation for SAT.

C. INSTALLATION OF LIGHT POLE AT PRACTICE FIELD AT THE GREEN STREET PROPERTY

Ken Swenson spoke of the light pole proposal for installation in the middle of the field complex at the third-base line in front of the Town Hall. The light will be fueled by gasoline for only a short time in the early evenings so that practice may be completed after dark. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to support the proposal to install a light pole at Green Street to illuminate the practice fields. UNANIMOUS.

D. FEOFFEEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Because a series of depositions have been scheduled, Mr. Loeb asked that former School Committee members be given legal counsel such as that afforded to current members. Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to authorize former School Committee members Ed Traverso, Norm Sheppard, Joan Arsenault, and Dianne Ross legal coverage in their upcoming subpoenas regarding Feoffees matters. UNANIMOUS. Mrs. Roesler mentioned a hearing, scheduled for October 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the State House, and asked for School Committee support to change the governance of the Feoffees.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS****B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS****1. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Victor asked and was told that the administration decides on policy of carrying backpacks during the school day.

2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

The policy of School Grounds Regulations (including Mile Lane) has come into question from the Athletic Subcommittee; in particular, regarding the possible banning of dogs from school athletic fields because of the failure of dog owners to clean up the area as a matter of safety. Policy Subcommittee will take up the issue.

3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Ken Swenson presented a proposal from the Field Study Committee for a field for athletics at the rear of the Doyon School and a rough schematic for additional parking on the west side of the school as well as at the front of the school to address drop off/pick up of students at the start/dismissal of classes. While there is no money to fund all of the project, Mr. Swenson advocated for, and Ms. Conley, Doyon Principal, approved, getting the plans and details “shovel ready.” Discussion ensued regarding funding for the project, wetlands, objection to the drop-off plan, and the fact that this is a Town committee composed of many people involved in fields and parks in the Town. Mr. Korb urged that Paul Bedard be included in the planning/discussions. Ken Swenson was recognized for his many years of work on behalf of kids in the Town.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to authorize the Athletic Field Study Committee to move forward in getting preliminary plans for both parking areas as well as the additional rectangular ball field. UNANIMOUS.

4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh will be sending articles on the trend of transforming the system of textbooks into electronic textbooks to his fellow members, one article of which is written by Patrick Larkin of the Burlington School System, in his hopes to lay the groundwork to meet with him. Victor expressed his favorable opinion on the subject, but pointed out that some of his peers don't like staring at the screen for hours on end.

5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

6. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh commented that the Committee will become active at budget time.

7. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Cuff attended a September 26 meeting and dispersed copies of the Tiger Tots Toddler News, 9/19/11.

8. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Dietz, at the September 27 meeting, said the group denied and tabled two bills, one from Casner & Edwards and a second from the Tax Abatement Board.

9. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

10. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb mentioned a new format for the Superintendent's evaluation, all part of “Race to the Top.”

12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

a. Recouping Food Service Costs Update

Mr. Korb read the letter which he proposes to send out to parents whose lunch costs are delinquent in payment. The benchmark is \$25 (two weeks' worth of lunches) up to hundreds of dollars. Ms. Cuff said that \$11,000 is still owed by more than 600 students, and the habitual parents who expend over the debit balance are those who will receive the letter. She also said that the School Department becomes responsible if the lunch program doesn't meet its fiscal budget by Bylaw. The question of certainty that every parent in arrears receives the letter remains.

b. Reciting Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Bauman, Mrs. Dietz, Mr. Loeb, and Dr. Gresh expressed no need to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at School Committee meetings.

c. Mission Statement

Mr. Hopping wishes the Mission Statement to be read at each meeting by the Chair.

13. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

14. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

15. OTHER

Mrs. Bauman expressed a desire to research reversing the bell schedules at the elementary and upper schools. Mr. Korb felt it should involve parents and teachers (collective bargaining); Mr. Hopping felt it should go to school councils first. Mr. Loeb felt that, if it went to a subcommittee, it should involve at least two of the four building principals, teachers, and members of the community and further, that research articles be disseminated through Central Office to avoid questions regarding the Open Meeting law.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Vision 20/20

Mr. Korb read his "Superintendent's Vision 20/20" and asked, in development of a timeline for a comprehensive and inclusive strategic plan, that a facilitator begin in the fall of 2012. He promised to provide copies of the 2002-07 plan from the files. He cited reviews of economic and demographic trends, programming within each of the schools, curriculum and instruction practices, student achievement, staffing and professional development, facilities and technology, and budgeting/financial planning as parts of his vision.

The Board began brainstorming about going forward—involving identified areas for change, weaknesses, strengths, the future 2020 graduates and the skill sets they will have to have, the personnel who would have provided those skills. Mr. Hopping asked for a timeline at the next meeting for establishing some of the targets with more substance. Dr. Gresh asked for an example of strategic plans from some of the best schools in the country.

2. Goals Template 2011

Mr. Korb reviewed the goals template of current initiatives of District Wide/Central Office and Elementary, Middle, and High Schools.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Acceptance of Minutes of September 15, 2011, Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of September 15, 2011, Executive Session
- Approval of the Model UN Club's overnight field trip to attend the UMASS Amherst Model UN Conference, March 16-18, 2012
- Approval of the Model UN Club's overnight field trip to attend Dartmouth College Model UN Conference, March 30-April 1, 2012
- Appointed Molly Markos as a member of the Athletic Subcommittee
- Appointed Zachary J. Angell as a member of the Athletic Subcommittee
- Acceptance of the donation of a Dell Poweredge 2900 server and a Dell Poweredge 2800 server and related software for a total value of \$5,300 to Ipswich Middle/High School, donated by Paul L. Chabot, 10 Alcott Way, North Andover, MA 01845
- Acceptance of the donation of upgrade equipment for the two servers donated to Ipswich Middle/High School for a total value of \$806, donated by Kevin W. Murphy, 7 Pitcairn Way, Ipswich, MA 01938
- Acceptance of the donation of technology equipment valued at \$1,225, donated to Doyon School by Paul L. Chabot
- Acceptance of the donation of technology equipment valued at \$2,010, donated to Doyon School by Devin W. Murphy
- Acceptance of the donation of six LCD flat monitors valued at \$750, donated to Doyon School by the Doyon FRIES. UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m. UNANIMOUS.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED IN OPEN SESSION

- House Bill texts for H1821 and 3538
- Parking Fee Handbook/registration form
- SAT scores
- Light pole at Green Street and dog banning at athletic fields
- Doyon Field study
- Tiger Tots Toddler News
- Letter to delinquent parents regarding school lunches
- Superintendent's Vision 20/20
- District Goals Template